update

Vol. 4, no. 2, 21 January 1991
Published by the Division of Information, United Nations Development Programme, One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

news and events

New York. More than 40 technical staff from UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) held their second working session at UNDP headquarters on 3 January to review country selections and proposals for Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects. The three organizations will use the GEF to channel technical, scientific and financial resources to middle- and lower-income countries to help them implement global environmental protection programmes.

Project proposals will be formulated during the next two months. During that time, UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP will conduct missions to work with selected developing country governments in preparing projects for the first installment of GEF funds. The next meeting of the GEF Implementation Committee will be held at UNDP headquarters on 14 February.

GEF supports projects in the areas of global warming, preservation of ecological diversity, combating pollution of international waters and protection of the ozone layer. Representatives at the meeting agreed that an important consideration for GEF projects is that environmental activities have transboundary implications. They stressed that GEF itself should serve as a catalyst to attract larger environmental investments from other sources.

Valencia. Representatives from major date palm producing Arab countries were invited here in December to launch a regional date palm research and development network. The recent decline in the yield and quality of date palms in most Arab countries has caused mounting concern. The plant is an important food staple and a major soil stabilizer. Genetic inferiority, outdated production techniques, inefficient disease management and improper post-harvest handling have contributed to the decline in production.

The network will support programmes to improve plant varieties, pest management and post-harvest technology and marketing. At this stage, nine Arab countries are set to participate in this research and development network.

UNDP has pledged US$1.5 million and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will contribute $1 million to the project. The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) will assist governments in purchasing equipment. IFAD and IsDB will work together to develop further projects.

New York. A donor consultation on urban development held in early December at the UN headquarters reviewed current bilateral and multilateral programmes in the urban sector. The 43 participants, including representatives of bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) agreed that urbanization issues have shifted from physical development to a broader perspective which includes human development. Participants discussed the role of the UNDP-assisted Urban Management Programme in co-ordinating international technical assistance for urban environment, municipal finance, urban infrastructure and land management.

They also stressed the need to decentralize the finance and management of urban services, improve the deteriorating urban environment and enlarge the participation of the private sector, NGOs and women's groups in urban development. The meeting was organized by UNDP's Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation and the Division for Global and Interregional Programmes.

projects approved by the action committee

(all approvals subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

12 December 1990

Djibouti. This project will provide housing for low-income families in the fast-growing District of Djibouti where half of the country's population lives. UNDP and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will help develop a

37-hectare site for low-income residents in the district's Balbala section. Project support will assist local communities in the construction of 1,390 low-cost houses and 770 pit latrines. Basic infrastructure such as roads, drainage canals, water supply and electricity will be developed. Loans for tools and equipment will be provided for community groups and small-scale construction contractors. UNCDF contribution: $3,559,700 for civil engineering work, credit fund and equipment. UNDP contribution: $630,000 for a technical adviser, UN Volunteers (UNVs) and administrative costs. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) in association with the UN Centre for Human Settlements. Implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, District of Djibouti. (DJI/86/C04-DJI/89/005)

Haiti. Additional funding from UNCDF under this project will help rehabilitate and expand three irrigation systems in the Artibonite Valley. UNCDF will finance materials and labour for new construction and equipment, and a subcontract for administering loans to farmers. Additional UNCDF contribution: $889,783 for construction contracts, equipment and administration of loans. Proposed co-operating agency: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). Implemented by the Organisme de développement de la vallée de l'Artibonite. (HAI/85/C01)

Nepal. To improve agricultural production, the Department of Irrigation will be strengthened to better organize farmers into effective associations. With UNDP support, 172 staff from the Department of Irrigation will receive training in irrigation design, labour-intensive construction techniques, formation and management of farmer associations and sustainable operation and maintenance of irrigation systems. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,133,400 for irrigation development experts, UNVs, fellowships, training materials and equipment. Executed by the International Labour Organisation and implemented by the Department of Irrigation. (NEP/90/034)

5 December 1990

Bolivia. The production of alpaca wool is an important source of income in the remote areas of the Bolivian Altiplano. UNDP and UNCDF are jointly supporting 5,500 alpaca breeders through assistance to the Association of the High Andes Camelid Producers (AIGACAA). A credit fund for alpaca breeders will be established, and improved techniques for pasture management and veterinary care will be introduced. Mechanical shearing equipment will be upgraded and a fiber processing facility will be established. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,351,300. Proposed UNDP contribution: $689,600. Funds are to be used for a credit fund, subcontracts and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Co-ordination through AIGACAA. (BOL/88/C05-BOL/89/006)

Burkina Faso. The government has placed priority on attaining food self-sufficiency, particularly in the Sahelian region. UNDP and UNCDF are supporting a national seed programme to supply farmers with quality, high-yield millet and sorghum seeds. New storage, quality control and marketing systems will be introduced. Training in seed treatment and agricultural extension services will also be provided. Proposed UNDP contribution: $647,500 for a team of UNVs who will manage and monitor the project. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $1,330,000 for equipment and revolving funds for seed production and marketing. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture through the Centre régional de promotion agro-pastorale. (BKF/90/C01)

Comoros. The government has identified provision of reliable energy as a development priority. Under this project, electricity will be extended to 47,500 people in 22 villages on the islands of N'gazidja and N'dzouani. Public lighting and new voltage lines will be installed. Total UNCDF budget: $3,094,000 for subcontracts, equipment and construction costs. Government-executed and implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Equipment through the Office of Electricity and Water. (COI/88/C05)

Gambia. As part of a national Economic Recovery Programme, this project will help to upgrade the management capabilities of the Gambia's Port Authority, Utilities Corporation, Telecommunications Corporation, Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation and the National Investment Board and Policy Analysis Unit of the Office of the President. Gambian skills in planning, accounting and auditing

will be improved through training, and a new computerized information system will be installed. The project will also expand management opportunities for women in public institutions. Total UNDP budget: $1.5 million for consultants, training and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the National Investment Board. (GAM/90/501)

Honduras. To help diversify agriculture and improve the income of peasants in the rural region of Choluteca, UNDP is promoting new income-generating activities. The enterprises include livestock development and milk production, harvesting of new agricultural crops and production of artificial flowers for export. A revolving credit fund and savings plan will be established to encourage further investments in productive ventures. Proposed UNDP contribution: $59,400. Third-party cost-sharing from the Netherlands: $754,300. Funds are to be used for marketing and rural development experts, revolving funds, study tours and equipment. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Honduran Social Investment Fund. (HON/90/001)

Mexico. The aim of this project is to provide the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the latest data base, office automation, electronic communications and data processing capabilities. By improving the information systems, the Ministry can make decisions based on the latest, most accurate information available. The Ministry will also be able to process passports and register corporations more rapidly. Proposed UNDP budget: $100,000. Government cost-sharing: $980,000. Funds are to be used for equipment, subcontracts and training. Executed by the government and implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (MEX/90/006)

Mozambique. Under this two-year extension project, UNDP will enhance the managerial capabilities of the National Directorate of Water. The aim will be to build within the Directorate the capabilities to evaluate, plan and manage water resources throughout the country. A new task force will outline river basin development plans, policy guidelines and regulations for water resources, programmes for dam inspections, development of a water resources data bank. The task force will also identify small-scale water projects in such areas as irrigation and hydropower. Proposed UNDP contribution: $3,904,654 for engineers, hydrologist, equipment and training. Executed by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD) and implemented by the Ministry of Construction and Water Resources. (MOZ/86/020)

Mozambique. Mozambique faces a severe shortage of doctors following the recent expiration of bilateral agreements which provided foreign doctors to the country. In response to the emergency, this project will provide UNV doctors to provincial and central hospitals. Another agreement will provide 20 Indian doctors to Mozambique. UNDP will contribute their salary and one-way air fare. A four-month consultancy will develop a national long-term strategy for hospital staffing. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,225,293 for UNVs, equipment and air fares and salary supplements for the Indian doctors. Proposed co-operating agency: the World Health Organization. Implemented by the Ministry of Health. (MOZ/90/006)

Myanmar. UNDP will help upgrade the educational and research capabilities of the Institute of Economics, the country's leading school for economics and public administration. The aim is to meet the country's needs for trained economists, managers and statistical analysts who will play key roles in Myanmar's economic planning. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,920,200 for consultants in economics, statistics, accounting and management, as well as for overseas training and seminars. Executed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and implemented by the Institute of Economics. (MYA/90/007)

Nigeria. Staff of the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning (FMBP) and the Centre for Econometric and Allied Research will receive training in data base management and computer economic modelling. This technical instruction will assist in the preparation of a long-range economic development plan for Nigeria. Proposed UNDP contribution: $1,133,700 for consultants, workshops, study tours and computer equipment. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by FMBP. (NIR/87/009)

Rwanda. Rapid population growth has put pressure on

READEX FICHE

housing and public services in the capital city of Kigali. UNCDF is helping to develop a low-cost 46-hectare housing site in the community of Gaculiro, four kilometres northeast of Kigali. New roads, drainage canals and 100 houses will be built. Electricity and water services will be installed. A housing credit plan will help low-income families finance new homes. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,426,983. Proposed UNDP contribution: $296,463. Funds are to be used for construction costs, a credit fund, equipment and subcontracts. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Public Works, Energy and Water. (RWA/88/C04)

Saudi Arabia. Technical expertise is being provided by UNDP to help upgrade Saudi Arabia's telecommunications services. Assistance will focus on developing a computerized frequency management system for the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. This system will enable more efficient management of national and international radio and television transmissions. Proposed UNDP contribution: $100,000. Government cost-sharing: $1,514,144. Funds are to be used for study tours and telecommunications experts. Executed by the International Telecommunication Union and implemented by the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone. (SAU/89/003)

Viet Nam. The aim of this project is to help a 2,600-hectare area in the Khe Tan section of Dai Loc District become self-sufficient in food production. A water distribution network and irrigation pump station will be completed. The long-term goal is to increase rice and animal feed production through improved water use and newly leveled fields. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $3,497,210 construction costs, equipment and study tours. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Danang Province People's Committee. (VIE/90/C02)

Viet Nam. This project will help develop irrigation, power supply and feeder roads in Dai Loc District, and set up a credit facility for private and public enterprises in small-scale manufacturing industries. A Programme Implementation Unit will be established to manage the construction works, monitor the proposed credit facility, and promote community-based, small businesses. Proposed UNCDF contribution: $479,490 for equipment, logistical costs and a subcontract for studies and investment planning. UNDP contribution: $550,000 for a programme manager, national experts and support staff. Executed by UNDP/OPS and implemented by the Danang Province People's Committee. (VIE/90/C09-VIE/90/012)

Yemen. The Technical Secretariat of the High Water Council will be assisted in preparing a water resources master plan. Technical assistance will be provided to develop a comprehensive data base for water resources planning. Training will enhance the Secretariat's planning and management capabilities. Additional UNDP contribution: $632,462 for hydrology and environment experts, training and equipment. Executed by UN/DTCD and implemented by the Technical Secretariat of the High Water Council. (YEM/88/001)

United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza,
New York, NY 10017